

Bay County Extension Council

Minutes **January 18, 2006**

Date: January 18, 2006

Time: 5:15 p.m.

Place: MSU Extension Bay County, Third Floor, Large Conference Room

Members Present:

Joyce Gavord

George Heron

Robert Kernstock

Lyle LeCronier

Bill Palmer

Elaine Sobieray

Chris Wazny

Ray VanDreissche

Members Excused:

Philip Engelhardt

Delicia Newman

Douglas Rise

Others Present:

Ann Arnold, FCS Extension Educator

Judy Delestowicz, Administrative Assistant

Brian Dick, Technology Coordinator

Tina Garlow Hickey, Parent Connect

Linda Leahy, Parent Connect

Howard Wetters, County Extension Director

INFORMATION PRESENTED AND DISCUSSION HIGHLIGHTS

With Doug Rise, chair, excused from the meeting and Ray VanDreissche, vice chair, arriving later, Howie Wetters, county Extension director, started the business meeting at 5:25 p.m. Minutes from the November 16, 2005, meeting were reviewed and approved. There was one additional item to the agenda added under old business—the status of the Agriculture and Natural Resources position.

At 5:30 p.m. the meeting was turned over Ray VanDreissche for the election of officers. Mr. Wetters said that both Doug Rise and Dr. Engelhardt would accept positions for chair and secretary, if no other nominations came from the floor. Mr. VanDreissche also stated that he would accept the position of vice chair if no other nominations were offered. With no other nominations taken from the floor, Extension Council voted to re-elect Mr. Rise, Mr. VanDreissche, and Dr. Engelhardt to the positions of chair, vice chair, and secretary, respectively.

Howie Wetters introduced Brian Dick, technology coordinator, who provides a variety of technology Website support and software training to Bay County employees, in addition to his duties at MSU Extension. Mr. Dick maintains MSU Extension Bay County's county Web site and also maintains our MSUE portal (campus) Website. Mr. Dick provided a "hands-on" overview of those Websites via an Internet presentation starting with how Extension Council can find its own information—member and staff directories, bylaws (PDF), office and meeting hours, and approved meeting minutes. Another MSUE program area high-lighted on the Web was 4-H program pages, showcasing how

members can download forms, view current "Clover Chatter" and "Clover Quickie" the 4-H newsletters, etc. Some discussion centered around listing 4-H club names and contacts and showing club activities to gain interest in joining 4-H, and to share ideas. Mr. Wetters said that it had been offered to 4-H clubs to have their own Web page, but there was a low response. Mr. Dick also gave members an overview of how to use MSUE's portal, which included ordering bulletins (resource materials) and viewing campus and county directories. A handout titled MSU Extension Online was provided that provided Website addresses for member's notebooks. Mr. Wetters asked extended an invitation to Extension Council to take one of the upcoming software classes that Mr. Dick teaches; there is no fee to attend. Extension Council will receive a copy of upcoming computer trainings.

At 5:50 p.m. Mr. Wetters addressed the status of the Agriculture and Natural Resources (ANR) Extension educator position. All funding has been approved between Arenac (10 percent), Bay (40 percent), and MSUE (50 percent). The job will be posted in February, with interviews in March. Mr. Wetters described the responsibilities the ANR Extension educator will have between the two counties, and reviewed MSU Extension's interview process. Mr. Wetters will solicit one member from Extension Council to sit in on the interviews.

Mr. Wetters asked Extension Council to participate in MSU Extension's upcoming issue identification and needs assessment process to set educational programs. He passed out several handouts and discussed how campus collects data and interprets results. Mr. Wetters also explained what the program areas to be discussed, how we will handle the sessions at the local level, and the need for group diversity in the participants invited. Mr. Wetters ran a short PowerPoint presentation from Dr. Thomas Coon, MSU Extension director, on the process called, "Strengthening Michigan's Economy." Extension Council agreed to meet as a group on February 1 and February 15 to begin the needs assessment identification process. Both Wednesday evening meetings will start at 5:15 p.m. at the MSU Extension Bay County conference room; dinner will be included.

There is a survey on MSU Extension's portal for the public to provide input, too. It can be found at <http://www.msue.msu.edu/portal/>, under the director's message section. Another survey relative to 4-H membership fees is also available for public input. Mr. Wetters explained why MSU Extension is implementing program revenue enhancement fees (PREF) and why campus is looking for feedback from its 4-H families and staff members. Some discussion centered around charging fees, where the money goes, and future 4-H program development. The 4-H survey is available till January 31. Mr. Wetters encouraged members to complete both surveys.

Ms. Tina Hickey and Ms. Linda Leahy, Parent Connect family service workers, were introduced to the members. Ms. Maureen Liden, Parent Connect family service worker, was unable to attend the meeting tonight. All three were hired by MSU Extension Bay County under an professional service agreement between MSUE and Bay Arenac

Intermediate School District (BAISD) from a federal grant received by BAISD and the United Way of Bay County to help link parents to community services and supports. Mss. Hickey, Leahy, and Liden works with the six identified schools in Bay and Arenac counties to enroll parents in the program. Schools in the program are Kolb, MacGregor, Washington, Lisnday elementary schools in Bay City; Mt. Forest Elementary in Pinconning; and Arenac Eastern School District. They provide information and referrals to community agencies based upon the specific needs of the family through phone calls and home and school visits. The program is funded till September 2006.

Jodi Schulz, 4-H youth development Extension educator, is still on bed rest in anticipation of the birth of twins and doing well. Mr. Wetters will keep Extension Council informed on the well-being of all. Jodi Wrzesinski, 4-H program associate, is filling in for Ms. Schulz during her leave of absence. 4-H is moving into schools with Character Counts programming. Mr. Wetters cited disciplinary actions are down considerably in the Standish-Sterling school district, where Character Counts programming is being delivered. Some discussion took place about the Character Counts youth program, how it works and how it differs from what the schools are presently using.

Ann Arnold provided an update on Family and Consumer Science (FCS) program activities over the last few months relative to group presentations and home visits for breast feeding counseling, nutrition and parenting education

As Jan Rise, Master Gardener volunteer program coordinator, could not attend tonight's meeting, Mr. Wetters gave a brief update on activities in this program area. Another Master Gardener core training is scheduled for February 21 and runs till May.

A Citizen Planner seven-week training starts February 9 and will be held at the Pinconning Library. Mr. Wetters offered that a Citizen Emergency Response Team (CERT) training is to be held in March.

Finally, Extension Council's discussion focused on concerns over the local school system's deficit problems and how administration is handling it, thoughts on teacher concessions, and effect it will have on our children's education.

The meeting adjourned at 7:10 p.m.

ACTION TAKEN

- It was moved, supported, and carried to approve the November 16, 2005, meeting minutes.
- It was moved, supported, and carried unanimously to re-elect Douglas Rise chair of the Bay County Extension Council.
- It was moved, supported, and carried unanimously to re-elect Ray VanDreissche vice chair of the Bay County Extension Council.

- It was moved, supported, and carried unanimously to re-elect Philip Engelhardt secretary of the Bay County Extension Council.
- It was moved, supported, and carried to adjourn at 7:10 p.m.

WHAT'S NEXT AND FOLLOW UP

Meetings for "Strengthening Michigan's Economy," an issue identification process are scheduled for Wednesday, February 1, and Wednesday, February 15, at 5:15 p.m., at MSU Extension Bay County, 3rd Floor, Bay County Building, 515 Center Avenue, Bay City, Michigan. A light evening meal is planned for both.

Extension Council's remaining 2006 meeting dates are:**-March 15****- August (Fair week/TBA)****-May 17****- September 20****- November 15**

Prepared by J. Delestowicz